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REPLACEMENT PAGE 1

GUI FOR DATA PIPELINE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to data summarization systems.

BACKGROUND

In computerized applications such as warehousing large amounts of data that might be continuously generated as a result of, e.g., large scale manufacturing processes, grocery store sales, and the like, it is essential to provide some way to present summaries of the data. The summaries may have to be presented periodically, e.g., daily. To present such summaries, a large amount of raw data must be processed. So-called data "pipelines" have been provided for this purpose.

Essentially, a data pipeline is a collection of software modules, each one of which executes a particular operation or sequence of operations on data that passes through it. The modules typically are arranged in series, i.e., a first module receives the raw data stream, processes it, and then sends its output to the next module down the line. The last module typically is an output module.

Because data summarization requirements vary widely depending on the particular application, current pipeline architectures are specifically designed to meet the demands of whatever application happens to be envisioned. Ordinarily a pipeline can't be used for an application it was not designed for. This is because each pipeline has constraints

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